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**REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**BHARATPUR FAMINE OF 1905-1906.**

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No. 1199 A. R. of 1906,

THE POLITICAL AGENT,

EASTERN RAJPUTANA STATES,

Bharatpur,

SIR,

I have the honor to submit my final  
report on the Bharatpur Famine of 1905-06 together with a map  
of the State.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Dated Bharatpur, }  
3rd November 1906. }

Your most obedient Servant,

GIRDHARI LAL.

*Revenue Member,*  
Central Famine Officer,



# REPORT

ON THE

## BHARATPUR FAMINE OF 1905-1906.

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### I.—Description of the State.

1. The Jat State of Bharatpur is situated in the extreme North-East of the Rajputana Agency between 26° 43" and 27° 50" latitude and between 76° 54" and 77° 59" longitude. It is bounded on the North by the Gurgaon District of the Punjab, on the East by the Muttra and Agra Districts of the United Provinces, on the South by the States of Jaipur, Karauli and Dholpur and on the West by the Rajput State of Alwar.

2. It is a fairly compact State irregularly quadrilateral in shape, narrowing from South to North, with a total area of about 2,000 square miles, bisected in the middle by the Rajputana-Malwa Railway which runs throughout from East to West.

The central part of the country is level, but the Northern is to some extent and the Southern is considerably diversified by hills. The soil of the State varies from heavy clay to light sand, the former is the most usual and generally of great depth.

3. The total population according to the Census of 1901 is 6,26,665 out of which 96,601 is classed as Urban and the rest Rural. The agricultural classes *i. e.* Jats, Gujars, Brahmans and Meos form by far the greater portion of the population. But owing to losses from plague in 1905 the total population at the commencement of the famine was about 6,00,000 people.

4. There are unfortunately no perennial Streams flowing through the State. Inundation or irrigation is obtained from the sources and by the means described below:—

- (1) From torrential streams, the most important of which are Ruparel coming from Alwar State in the North-West, Banganga and Gumbhir coming from Jaipur State in the South-West and Kakand from the Karauli State in the South. These streams are flooded by rainfall in the neighbouring States from whence they come and supplemented by local rainfall fill up the numerous *bunds*, shallow tanks and reservoirs which are scattered here and there over the whole State.
- (2) From local rainfall.
- (3) From wells.

5. The system of irrigation from the torrential rivers throughout the State is to utilise the floods for inundating the lands during the rainy season, when the soil becomes thoroughly saturated, a slight deposit of silt which possesses highly fertilising properties, being also

left on the surface by the floods. After the termination of the rainy season in October, the water is drained off and the flooded fields are ploughed and sown for the winter crops. The sub-soil retains the moisture sufficiently and at such a depth as to nourish the growing plants without the need of future irrigation. The winter rains assist in producing a heavy crop and if they fail the crops are light, or well irrigation is resorted to in order to feed them sufficiently.

6. According to the Settlement Records (1900-1901) the total "Serabi" area irrigated by floods in the State was 1,45,652 Barani 4,41,592 Chahi 1,80,594 acres or in other words roughly speaking 77 per cent of the total cultivated area depended on rainfall in this State as well as in the three neighbouring States in the West and South, while only 23 per cent was such as was protected by wells; though the immunity it had from drought was not complete as in a year without rain, the water in wells went down lower and often got brackish or salty which necessarily caused a proportionate shrinkage in "Chahi" cultivation.

7. The average rainfall in this State was 24 inches out of which nearly 21 inches was the monsoon average.

## II.—The economic and agricultural condition of the area affected before the Famine.

8. In 1895-96 and 1896-97 there was a serious failure of the rains especially in the Southern Tehsils which had resulted in a severe scarcity and the pressure in collecting the revenue led to whole-sale desertions among the agricultural population and threw a very large area out of cultivation.

In 1897-98 the rain-fall though rather short was well distributed and harvests were abundant all over the State.

In 1898-99 the rainfall was again very defective specially in the Northern Tehsils and though there was a fair *Kharif*, the *Rabi* owing to the failure of the winter rains was a poor one.

In 1899-00 again the average rainfall was 19 inches in the Northern Tehsils and over 20 in all others, but everywhere the distribution was bad, and no rain fell from 20th August 1899 to 31st March 1900. The Northern Tehsils which had escaped lightly in the scarcity of 1896-97 were the chief sufferers. In the two Western Tehsils, however, the prevalence of well irrigation enabled the people to reap a good crop on well lands and the high prices of grain helped to support them, while in the northern Tahsils owing to the smallness of the "Chahi" area and the fact that a large proportion of wells have bitter water the crops partially failed.

The crisis was also aggravated in these Tahsils by a destructive hail storm in March 1900, which in the four Northern Tehsils ruined a large area of such well crops as had been brought to maturity. For this damage a remission of revenue amounting to Rs. 24,000 was sanctioned.

Famine conditions may be said to have declared themselves from 1st September 1899 and to have disappeared by the end of August 1900, when the copious monsoon rains had assured the autumn crops.

The year 1900-01 was on the whole a prosperous one.

In 1901-02 the rainfall throughout the year was again much below the normal and so the outturn of both the crops was considerably below the average.

In 1902-03 the rainfall was normal and a fairly good harvest was reaped.

In 1903-04 the rainfall was nearly normal and the crops, too, were about the average.

In 1904-05 the rainfall was much above the average and the *Kharif* crops were partly damaged by excessive rains. The *Rabi* crop should have been a bumper one but for the severe cold and frost in February 1905 which damaged the almost ripened crops to a considerable degree.

### III.—The cause of Famine and the extent of the failure of the harvests.

9. During the monsoon of 1905-06 the average rainfall was less than 8 inches for the whole State. Even this abnormally small quantity was not well distributed.

The Northern parts received the largest share and therefore felt the pinch slightly, while the rest of the State with the exception of a small area in the South which was protected by the Bareta *bund*, suffered badly. The following figures will show the extent of the failure of the rainfall and the consequent failure of the harvests as compared with a normal year :—

Tehsil.	Average annual rainfall 1897-98 to 1904-1905.	Total rainfall in 1905-1906.	Average monsoon rainfall 1897-98 to 1904-1905.	Total monsoon rainfall in 1905-1906
Bharatpur ...	27—31	11· 02	24—36	8—71
Nadbai ...	22—22	7—99	19—61	6—81
Weir ...	24—24	6—79	21—52	5—18
Biana ...	20—45	8—40	24—11	7—85
Bupbas ...	23—41	8—69	20—96	7—59
Dig ...	22—92	12—27	19—76	10— 8
Kuma ...	23—73	15—71	20—43	11—80
Pahari ...	20—12	11—75	17—27	8—94
Nagar ...	21—49	8—27	18—77	5—17
Kumher ...	24—00	6—70	20—81	4—19
Total ...	235—89	97—59	207—60	76—32
Average ...	23—59	9—76	20—76	7—63
		Average for normal year.		Actuals of 1905-06.
Kharif ...	{ Cultivated	... 5,44,612	...	3,70,370
	{ Successful	... 5,00,839	...	64,943
Rabi ...	{ Cultivated	... 2,65,761	...	1,43,476
	{ Successful	... 2,36,795	...	1,00,154
Total ...	{ Cultivated	... 8,10,373	...	5,13,846
	{ Successful	... 7,37,634	...	1,65,097

Out of the total average cultivation of about 8½ lacs of acres 91 per cent



used to be successful but this year instead of 8½ lacs about 5½ lacs was cultivated and out of this only 32 per cent was successful, that is to say the total successful area was a little over 22 per cent of a normal year.

10. This paucity of rain had also caused a grass Famine in the State which made the situation far worse for the cultivators.

*The Statement below shows the monthly rainfall for the Famine year 1905-06.*

No.	Tahsils.	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total.
1	Bharatpur ...	0.02	0.02	0.41	5.10	0.15	2.75	...	...	0.11	0.04	1.49	0.63	11.02
2	Rupbas ...	...	...	0.60	4.43	1.31	1.25	...	...	0.15	...	0.67	0.28	8.67
3	Biana ...	...	...	1.27	3.47	1.06	2.05	...	...	...	...	0.40	0.15	8.40
4	Weir ...	...	0.17	1.20	1.12	0.60	2.26	...	...	0.30	...	0.93	0.21	6.79
5	Nadbai ...	...	...	0.96	3.28	0.60	1.97	...	...	0.08	...	0.70	0.10	7.99
6	Dig ...	...	0.02	3.52	1.46	1.63	3.47	...	...	...	...	1.24	0.93	12.27
7	Kanan ...	...	...	2.71	2.17	0.22	6.40	...	...	...	...	2.98	0.93	15.71
8	Nagar ...	...	...	...	2.48	0.48	2.21	...	...	...	...	2.35	0.75	8.27
9	Kumher ...	...	...	1.08	1.55	0.20	1.36	...	...	...	...	0.19	1.57	6.70
10	Palati ...	0.15	...	1.05	4.42	0.27	3.20	...	...	...	...	1.29	1.87	11.75
	Total ...	0.17	0.21	12.10	29.78	6.82	26.02	...	...	0.64	0.04	12.93	7.22	97.59
	Average ...	0.1	0.2	1.28	2.97	0.68	2.63	...	...	0.6	0.00	1.29	0.72	9.76

#### IV.—The area, population and classes affected and the degree of distress:

11. With the exception of the extreme Northern portion of the State and the small part protected by the Bareta *bund*, the whole of the State was seriously affected i. e. out of the total area of nearly 2,000 square miles 350 square miles were affected slightly and 1,650 square miles seriously.

As already mentioned almost all classes were affected by this famine though the agricultural classes and those whose occupation was chiefly connected with agriculture such as Chamars, Kolies etc. suffered the most. The number of those affected seriously may be estimated at about 4 lacs, excluding the population of the large cities and the number who had already emigrated.

#### V.—General narrative of the commencement, progress and close of the Famine.

12. In the latter part of July 1905 the failure of the rains began to be felt by the agriculturists. The average rainfall up to the end of that month was about 12 inches and only 4.28 inches had fallen.

In August the total fall was less than two inches in three Tehsils and about half an inch in the remaining seven.

In September again the average rainfall all over the State was about 2½ inches only and this completed the entire failure of the monsoon and practically sealed the fate of the autumn crops.

13. This failure of the monsoon had also brought in its train a total failure of fodder, which entailed considerable suffering on the live stock of the State and the problem was to keep the people from wandering and also to save the plough cattle as far as possible, in order to raise a winter crop.

A good deal was done by the Darbar to attain this object, but the success of all such schemes again largely depended on winter rains. Unfortunately October and November passed without a drop of rain while December gave less than 30 cents in five Tehsils and January 4 cents in only one and this failure of winter rains again was very disappointing.

14. In September the first test works were opened which were followed by 3 relief works in the latter part of the same month.

In October the situation became grave and the daily average on Relief Works rose to 2,484 persons.

After this fresh works were opened monthly as required in different parts of the State and the daily numbers continued to rise till April when it reached a total of 15,351, including *dependents*. Thus the distress went on increasing and reached its climax in April.

In May the winter harvest, poor as it was, furnished a small portion of the population with some occupation and relief and the average number on works dropped to 10,661.

In June fairly heavy rains fell and with this there was another remarkable fall in the numbers.

In July the daily average numbers went down to 871 and all relief works were finally closed in the beginning of August 1906.

## VI.—Relief measures and administration.

*Organization of the relief system.*—15. At the appearance of the first signs of distress, test works were opened by the Darbar in the first two weeks of September, in 9 different localities under the supervision of the local Tehsildars. By the third week of September the necessity to open Relief works was felt and on 19th of this month Departmental Relief Works were opened.

16. The programme of Relief Works which was kept ready for an emergency showed 162 works estimated to cost Rs. 8,62,574 and to employ 63,50,310 daily units. On close examination it was found necessary to revise the programme. Many of the works consisted of petty village works, selected by the Revenue authorities and scattered over the District in a way which made it difficult to supervise; others were situated where no Relief Works could be carried out owing to there being no water supply near, others contained too large a percentage of masonry works to be useful Relief Works.

A revised programme was therefore prepared, it consisted of 41 works altogether estimated to cost Rs. 6,82,566 and to employ 63,65,116 daily units.

The population of the State was 6,26,665 persons and it was estimated that not more than 48,00,000 daily units will require relief and that the maximum number of people on relief at any one time would not exceed 20,000 persons.

The works provided in the revised programme consisted of 38 State P. W. D. works and three Nagda Muttra Railway works, i. e. 33 miles of earth-work and ballast breaking at two different depôts.

Many of these works had no estimates prepared as the ordinary P. W. D. staff was not sufficient for this purpose so with a view to prepare the necessary estimates, the staff was rapidly increased, and surveys of all the works likely to prove useful Relief Works were made without unnecessary loss of time.

*Departmental relief.*—17. The system on which the Relief works were carried out under the Public Works Department was that known as the "Modified Contract System" combined with Departmental Relief for dependents.

The whole of the Relief works were under the Public Works Department and the State Engineer was incharge of the whole system.

18. A description is given below of the system on which the Relief works were carried out.

Each separate work or portion of a work was given to an approved and selected contractor who signed an agreement and deposited a security deposit of 10 per cent of the total cost of the work. If the contractor failed to carry out his agreement the security deposited became forfeited to the State, and the State Engineer was the sole judge and arbitrator and his decision was final.

Special clauses were inserted in the agreement to cover the question of sanitation, hutting, water supply and medical attendance. The Public Works Department and the contractor were jointly responsible, and the cost was divided proportionately. A clause was inserted into the agreement to ensure the employment of all Bharatpur subjects who applied for work whether able-bodied or otherwise. Tools and plant were all supplied by the contractor.

The State Engineer fixed not only the rate of earth-work per thousand cubic feet to be paid to the contractors, but also the rate per hundred cubic feet of earth-work to be paid to the labourers direct. This varied with the nature of the soil, length of lead, height of lift and rate of grain ; in this way he controlled the contractor's profit.

In addition to this a minimum wage was also fixed. The minimum wage applied more particularly to the people employed on dressing and consolidating the earth-work, who were paid daily wages and whose work it was not easy to measure up. The people employed on this work were the weak men, women and young children who were too weak or too young to be employed on digging or carrying and who if employed at the fixed rate would probably not have earned a living wage.

The minimum wage was also applied, although in a lesser degree, to the diggers and carriers, but it was rarely necessary to pay it, as the wages could be, far better, regulated by increasing or decreasing the rate per hundred cubic feet to be paid to them.

The minimum wage of course depended directly on the local price for grain, and varied throughout the famine. Contractors were supplied with a statement giving the minimum wage for men, women, children of various ages, at various rates of grain.

Daily payments were made by contractors to all labourers in presence of the officer in charge of the work or his deputy.

19. Arrangements for gratuitous relief on the works and relief to dependents were carried out departmentally. The Sub-Overseer or Mistry in charge of the work was given a small imprest and paid the dependents and those unfit for work and kept a separate account for this purpose.

The number of dependents and people unfit for work amounted to a very small percentage of the whole, as with the exception of very small children or very old weak persons, all were able and fit to do some work.

Weak persons unfit for work and not depending on workers were drafted into the Poor House at Sear.

20. Each work was under the special charge of one man who was responsible for the work. In the larger works where some 3,000 people might be employed he would be a Sub Overseer and would have under him Mistries and time-keepers. On the smaller works where the numbers did not exceed one or two hundred people, a Mistry only would be in charge who would work as Time-Keeper.

A report showing the number of workers and dependents with other particulars was forwarded daily to the Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of each circle as well as to the State Engineer.

On all the works that were started at any distance from a village, arrangements were made for a Bania to open a shop at the site of the work and grain was sold at the same rate as in the neighbouring villages.

In a great number of cases it was not found necessary to arrange for huts, as empty houses were taken over in the neighbouring villages, and the labourers as a general rule prefer this to living actually on the works. On works where it was found necessary to arrange for huttings, sirkee lean huts were constructed which were moved easily from place to place as required.

Throughout, all the returns required under the Famine Code were carefully prepared and sent in regularly to the Central Famine Officer.

21. The supervision of the Relief Works was carried out by the State Engineer and the Sub-Divisional Officers. In addition, Members of Council, Deputy Collectors, Nazims and Tehsildars visited and inspected the works. By special arrangement, the Executive Engineer of the Railway and his two Assistants (all three Government Gazetted Officers) kindly under-took to inspect the Railway Famine Relief works, both Earth-work and ballast. They reported directly to the State Engineer making suggestions to him, and informing him of any irregularities. Their supervision was most useful as they were continually on the work and enabled the State Engineer to devote more time to the supervision of the other Relief Works.

22. Mr. H. Dobbs C. I. E. Famine Commissioner for Rajputana inspected a few of the Relief Works at the end of November.

Altogether 53 contractors were employed. Of this number 5 were fined for minor offences connected with the carrying out of the work, and 3 had their work taken from them and were dismissed for irregular payment and other mismanagement.

*Non-Departmental Relief*—23. As it was decided to carry out all Relief Works under the Public Works Department, no Non-Departmental works were opened at all with the exception of the few Test works already described.

*Charitable Relief*—24. There were no kitchens opened by the Darbar in this State, as none were considered necessary.

*Private Charitable Committees*.—25. Early in October 1905 many destitutes and cripples who were physically unfit to earn a living began to flock into Bharatpur and other towns in the State. Private Charitable Committees were at once formed by the Central Famine Officer in each Tehsil and town and thus adequate arrangements were made for daily distribution of parched gram etc. The flocks of wanderers from the neighbouring States who passed through this State en route to British Districts in the North and East also received relief from these Charitable Committees which had done all that was required.

These Committees worked from October to March. Altogether about Rs. 4,861 (including cash and grain) were locally subscribed and roughly speaking 1,91,000 units received relief by these means.

*Poor House*.—26. In the latter part of January the necessity for opening a Poor House was felt and on 1st February a Poor House was accordingly opened at Sewar which is about 3 miles from Bharatpur.

A general order was issued to all Revenue Officials to send to the Poor House all persons who were weak or otherwise physically unfit to earn a living and had no one to look after them. Similar instructions were also issued to all officers in charge of the various Relief Works throughout the State.

This Poor House was open at all times and to all without any distinction as to caste, creed or sex, whether belonging to this State or foreign territory. It was kept open from February to the end of August 1906.

It was managed by a Committee of local Mahajans and a few officials with the Central Famine Officer as its President and the local Treasury Officer as its Secretary.

*Food*.—27. Food was served twice a day to all adults and thrice a day to children. 10 to 14 chhataks of cooked food per diem were given to every adult male and 8 to 10 to every adult female while 2 to 6 chhataks were given to children. The mother got an extra ration for an infant in arms in the shape of milk or other light food.

*Clothing*.—28. Each inmate whether male or female was supplied with necessary clothing and also with a tin plate, a tin pot and a mat. Besides the regular inmates, casuals were also allowed one meal every day.

The Poor House was enclosed by a wall from all sides with only one gate, and the inmates were not allowed to go out without a pass.

*Medical attendance.*—29. A whole time Hospital Assistant with the usual staff and stock of medicines was always on the premises to inspect the provisions supplied and to attend to those who needed medical attendance.

Those who came sick or emaciated were sent out to the neighbouring works or any work near their homes, as soon as they were fit. Some of the inmates when fit were assigned some work in the poor house such as cooking food, bringing water etc. While those who wanted to go to their homes were supplied with cash sufficient to carry them to their destination.

*Inspections.*—The institution was regularly visited by the Central Famine Officer and other Members of the Committee.

The Agency Surgeon Major V. G. Drake Brockman visited the Poor House very often, his advice as to sanitary and feeding arrangements was of much value.

Among the visitors there were also several European Ladies and other non-official gentlemen.

30. In the month of June, Cholera broke out in the Poor House. The infection was probably brought in by new inmates as its appearance was immediately afterwards discovered in a few villages in the State. But happily the scourge was suppressed by the energetic measures taken by the Medical authorities under the direct supervision of Major L. Impey the Political Agent and the Central Famine Officer.

On the last day of August when the Poor House was closed there were only 13 persons all of whom were utterly destitute and unfit to earn their living. These persons were made over to the permanent Charity Department of the State. Orphans who had no one to look after them have been transferred to the Local Victoria Orphanage.

*Parda Women.*—31. The Darbar's attention was drawn particularly to this class of persons in the latter part of November and under instructions the Central Famine Officer at once formed a Special Committee for their relief with Branches at the Head Quarters of each Tehsil. In Bharatpur the city was divided into 13 wards and each ward had its own member.

Each Pardah woman who by custom could not come out of her house and who was fit to work was supplied weekly with 2 seers of ginned cotton to spin and the yarn spun was taken back from her after 3 annas and 6 pies being paid to her for every seer of it. This arrangement gave every such woman about one anna a day. Those Pardah women who were unfit to work on account of tender years or extreme old age or on account of some physical defect, were paid 6 pies to 9 pies a day, the payment being made weekly or fortnightly.

In out-lying Districts the Tehsildars were required to send up lists showing approximately the number of such women in their respective charges after thorough enquiries through the local Zaildars or other respectable people and they were regularly supplied with funds from Head Quarters according to the approximate requirements in each Tehsil. Weekly Returns were furnished by the Tehsildars of all disbursements made either by them or through the local Agencies.

General Meetings of the Committee at the Head Quarters were regularly held by the Central Famine Officer and a copy of the proceedings of each Committee held was duly submitted to the Council for their information. The number of Pardah women relieved by these arrangements amounted to 79,583 units and the cost to Rs. 4,454.

#### VII.—(A.) Statistics and cost of Relief.

*Departmental Works.*—32, The total number of people relieved on Relief Works carried out under the charge of the Public Works Department was 23,50,411 daily units, including 2,47,874 Dependents.

The highest daily average for one week was reached in the third week of April when the average for the week was 14,824 including 2,094 dependents, the greatest number on one day being 15,351 persons as against 13,500 in the previous Famine of 1899-1900.

The statement given on the next page shows the daily units of labourers and dependents, on all Relief Works, under the P. W. D. from September to August 1906.





33. The total cost of all such works including all charges was Rs. 3,86,600, of this sum the the Railway has paid the State 1,40,000 for work done. The total cost to the State is therefore 2,46,600.

This amount of 2,46,600 includes cost of all necessary masonry, survey of famine projects, establishment, and gratuitous relief for dependents, and others unable to work, who were maintained on relief works until the Poor House was opened at Sewar in February.

The number of workers relieved was 21,02,537 daily units or a daily average of 11,677 persons for 6 months. Deducting cost of masonry not carried out by famine labour and extra establishment etc. but including contractors' profit, tools, plants and Establishment, the total cost was Rs. 3,10,000 or 2 annas 3 pies per daily unit, cost to the State was Rs. 1,70,000 or 1 anna 3 pie per daily unit. The total value at ordinary P. W. D. rates of work done (excluding Railway work) all of which is useful work and forms part of our irrigation system amounts to Rs. 2,00,000.

In addition to the above expenditure the ordinary P. W. D. Budget for the year amounted to Rs. 4,30,000. Deducting Establishment charges, cost of tools and plant and money spent otherwise than on works this leaves a sum of approximately Rs. 3,00,000 spent on works in the State and which must materially have helped to support many people who would otherwise have come on to Relief Works.

*Non-Departmental Works.*—34. The total cost of the Test Works that were opened early in September 1905, and were subsequently converted into Famine Relief Works within the same month amounted to Rs. 9,628.

These had afforded relief to 1,16,927 workers and 2,120 dependents. The average cost per head including all charges comes to about 1 annas 2 pies.

*Provision of Funds.*—35. All the Funds expended on the above works were supplied by the State.

### (B.) Nature and utility of works constructed with Famine Labour.

*Departmental Works.*—36. Out of the 41 works in the Revised Programme it was only found necessary to open 27 works viz 24 Public Works Department works and 3 Railway Works. With two exceptions the Public Works Department Relief Works consisted entirely of irrigation works.

The works were selected for the following reasons :—

- (1) As far as possible works were selected where they were most wanted on account of distress.
- (2) Works with a large percentage of earthwork and small percentage of masonry.

(3) Works likely to prove most useful as reproductive works.

37. A short description of a few of the larger works is given below :—

*Pathena Canal.*—The original canal 2 miles long and 30 feet wide was lengthened 10 miles and widened making the total length of canal 12 miles with a width of 50 feet throughout.

It included 1 Bridge with fall, 1 regulator and 5 falls. The total cost was Rs. 44,780 of which Rs. 12,527 was for masonry the rest being for earth-work. The total number of people relieved by this work was 1,72,738 daily units.

The object of this work is to feed Bhatauli and Ajow *Bunds* and to convey water into the Nadbai and Kumher Tahsils which are the driest parts in the State.

The work has already proved successful and 3,800 acres have already been irrigated by its agency.

38. *Ajow Bund* costing Rs. 35,000 gave employment to 2,46,735 daily units. It consists of an earthen *bund* 6 miles long and has no masonry in it with the exception of 8 sluices. *Bhatauli Bund* costing 25,000 gave employment to 1,37,802 daily units. It consists of an earthen *Bund* 4 miles in length and has 4 masonry sluices.

These two *bunds* are situated in the dry area of the State and are fed from the Banganga River over 20 miles away, *Bhatauli bund* has already filled up twice and 700 acres have been irrigated.

In *Ajow Bund* about 300 acres have already been irrigated.

This is the first time we have secured any real irrigation from our rivers in this district which was one of the portions of the State that suffered most severely during the famine. These two *Bunds* if filled will irrigate 6,000 acres in the middle of this dry tract.

*Pichuna Canal.*—39. The original canal 2 miles long and 40 feet wide has been lengthened 4 miles and widened, making the total canal 6 miles long and 50 feet wide.

It takes off from the Gambhir at Sewla Bareta and feeds several *bunds* including *Ajan Bund*.

It has already since its completion proved a very useful work, several floods have passed down it, and it has already irrigated 2,400 acres. The work cost Rs. 12,565 and has given work to 64,993 daily units. Some hard rock cutting and masonry in connection with the head works was necessary and was carried out by Famine Labour as far as possible.

*Chicksana Canal.*—40. This is a new canal 10 miles in length leading from *Ajan Bund* to *Chicksana Bund*, it is 25 feet wide and is designed to irrigate 5,000 acres when sufficient water is available. 4000 acres have already been irrigated this year.

It is designed to carry off the surplus water from Ajan bund which in former years has been allowed to run to waste into the Agra District. The cost of the work which includes one bridge is Rs. 20,000 and it has afforded relief to 1,02,775 daily units.

*Nagda Muttra Railway earth-work.*—41. This was the largest relief work in the State. It consisted of all the earthwork on the Railway throughout a length of 33 miles, which was handed over to the State P. W. D. by the Railway for the purpose of construction. The rates were agreed upon before-hand and depended on the height of the bank and hardness of the soil. The Railway made monthly payments for all work done, and made final payments on each half mile of earthwork completed and properly dressed. The payments were made direct to the State Engineer. Payments were all made on sectional quantities, and the total amount of earthwork to be done and approximate value of the same was therefore known beforehand.

This arrangement was the result of a mutual agreement between the Executive Engineer of the Railway in charge of the Division passing through the State and the State Engineer, and from the State point of view was in every way an improvement on the previous custom sanctioned by Government. The previous custom was that the work should be carried out by Famine Labour and paid for by the State, who received no payment for it until the Earth-work was completed and taken over by the Railway possibly a year or two afterwards, and who then only received the rate fixed by the Engineer-in-Chief of the Railway. An arrangement which in the case of Jaipur in the Famine of 1900 gave very unsatisfactory results from the State point of view.

The Railway Earthwork proved in every way a most useful famine relief work, the work was all bank, it ran diagonally across the Southern portion of the State, it was easy of access and therefore easy to supervise.

To cover the extra cost due to the work being carried out on famine relief principles, the rate given by the State was slightly in excess of the rate allowed by the Railway.

The total cost of the work was Rs. 1,27,965 and the total money received from the Railway was Rs. 1,15,000 the difference of Rs. 12,965 representing what the work cost the State. The number of people relieved by this work was 7,74,000 daily units *i. e.* over three quarters of a million. The work was started in January and continued on till the end of July.

*Ballast Breaking.*—42. A somewhat similar arrangement was made regarding the supply of ballast for the Railway. Two depôts were formed one at Mandhoni near Bharatpur and the other at Biana and were utilised as relief works. They were opened early in the famine during October and November, and until the Railway earthwork was started proved most useful relief work. But they were never as popular with the Famine worker as earthwork and in March they were closed as Famine relief works, and the Railway arranged for their own supply

of ballast. During the time the depôts were under the charge of the Public Works Department as relief works, relief was afforded to 3,48,463 units. The cost of these two works was Rs. 27,954 of which sum the Railway paid Rs. 25,000 the balance of Rs. 2,954 being the actual cost to the State.

After the ballast depôts were closed as relief works the Railway continued to employ some thousands of people on ballast breaking, the system however was purely contract, the majority of workers were no doubt professional labourers from outside the State, but a fair portion of Bharatpur people probably 3 or 400 continued to be employed.

The other relief works carried out in the State need no special description, consisting of bunds, short channels and canals.

*Non-Departmental Works.*—43. All the Non-Departmental Works (Test works subsequently converted into Relief Works) consisted of Kutch tanks which was the most suitable form of labour, and for which no professional supervision was required.

All these works were selected in localities where no rain fell and where they were wanted the most. These were all works of permanent utility. All these tanks have been filled with water by the recent rains and are expected to continue to be of much practical use upto the end of the cold weather, some till even later than that.

None of these works were left incomplete.

*The statement below gives the total cost and the total Units relieved on all sorts of direct relief works throughout the Famine.*

Number.	Particulars.	Amount of Expenditure.	Total number of units relieved.	Average cost per head.	Remarks.
1	Non-Departmental works ...	8,622 14 3	1,19,017	0 1 2	Including cost of all necessary masonry & all other charges.
2	Departmental works. ...	3,70,889 0 0	23,50,411	0 2 6	
3	Poor-house ...	4,201 0 0	49,816	0 1 4	
4	Pardah women ...	4,454 7 0	79,588	0 0 10	
5	Victoria orphanage ...	652 12 0	5,434	0 1 11	
6	Organized private charities.	4,861 0 6	1,90,740	0 0 5	
7	<i>Other Expenditures</i> ...				
	(a) Medical ...	1,702 8 11	...	...	
	(b) Tools and plants including instruments ...	5,134 3 9	...	...	
	(c) Famine allowauces to sepoys etc. ...	9,512 14 11	...	...	
	(d) Pay and allowances to officials ...	1,343 14 0	...	...	
	(e) Establishment etc. on works ...	11,619 3 9	...	...	
	(f) Miscellaneous including survey charges etc. ...	3,516 4 0	...	...	
	Total ...	4,26,510 3 1	27,95,031	...	

44. Of the total cost of Rs. 4,26,510-3-1 the Nagda Muttra Railway have paid Rs. 1,40,000 for the work done for them, while Rs. 6,262 was the amount collected by the private subscriptions or in other words the details of the total amount spent on direct relief are ;

Spent by the State	...	...	2,80,248	3	1
„ by N. M. Railway	...	...	1,40,000	0	0
„ by private subscription	...	...	6,262	0	0
Total	...	...	4,26,510	3	1

45. The ratio of average daily units so relieved throughout the Famine for 7 months was 2-4 per cent on the total population or about 3 percent on the affected population of the State. The total number of daily units releived amounted to 5 times the total population or 7 times the affected population of the State.

In addition to the above Rs. 3,00,000 was spent on Public Works throughout the State exclusive of establishment charges, tools and plants etc. and which must have given employment to at least 10,00,000 people many of whom would otherwise have had to come on to relief works.

The statement given on the next page shows the details of all the works constructed with famine labour (Major and minor).

List of all works constructed with Famine Labour.

No.	Name of works.	Date on which commenced.	Date on which finished.	Length of miles or chains.	Measurement in cubic feet (Earth-work).	EXPENDITURE.				
						Workers.	Dependents.	Tools and plants.	Establishment.	Total cost including masonry.
						Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<b>A. Major works.</b>										
1	Extension of Pathana canal.	20—9—05	1—7—06	13 miles 10 ft.	87,22,000	37,739 0 0	.....	.....	.....	37,739 0 0
2	Bhataoli Bund	16—1—06	15—7—06	51 chains ...	60,10,730	23,161 0 0	168 0 0	.....	.....	23,329 0 0
3	Ajow Bund	2—11—05	15—7—06	277 " ... 6 furlongs	76,08,036	33,061 0 0	501 0 0	.....	.....	33,562 0 0
4	Pichuna canal	19—9—05	9—6—06	5 miles 11 ch. 5 furlongs	23,75,870	13,805 0 0	110 0 0	.....	.....	13,915 0 0
5	Chakrana canal	30—10—05	31—7—06	10 miles 19 chains 34 ft.	36,97,796	19,167 0 0	289 0 0	.....	.....	19,456 0 0
6	Jalalya channel	27—9—05	28—7—06	219 chains ...	22,73,450	11,092 0 0	250 0 0	.....	.....	11,342 0 0
7	N. M. Railway Earth-work.	21—1—06	31—7—06	30 miles ...	4,00,00,000	1,25,000 0 0	2,965 0 0	.....	.....	1,27,965 0 0
8	Do Ballast Depot at Mahoni	10—11—05	15—7—06	.....	5,00,000	10,000 0 0	661 0 0	.....	.....	10,661 0 0
9	Do. at Diana	21—10—05	1—7—06	.....	7,50,000	15,000 0 0	2,294 0 0	.....	.....	17,294 0 0
	TOTAL MAJOR WORKS	.....	.....	.....	7,19,37,882	2,88,025 0 0	7,238 0 0	.....	.....	2,95,263 0 0
<b>B. Minor works.</b>										
10	Pipal-wale channel	25—9—05	28—7—06	217 chains ...	14,18,500	7,151 0 0	500 0 0	.....	.....	7,651 0 0
11	Gujar Churari band	27—11—05	4—2—06	86 " ...	13,04,819	3,958 0 0	.....	.....	.....	3,958 0 0
12	Janother bund	3—10—05	28—7—06	52 " ...	7,84,140	3,884 0 0	67 0 0	.....	.....	3,951 0 0

13	Dharsoni canal	...	5-12-05	21-5-06	1 mile 34 chains 20 ft. 37 chains ...	12,31,400	3,674 0 0	.....	.....	.....	3,674 0 0
14	Bysora bund	...	8-12-05	17-3-06	...	6,17,773	3,155 0 0	.....	.....	.....	3,155 0 0
15	Kani bund	...	10-10-05	5-4-06	55 "	14,23,200	6,945 0 0	.....	.....	.....	6,945 0 0
16	Mertha bund	...	4-12-05	18-4-06	21 "	2,72,900	2,832 0 0	10 0 0	.....	.....	2,832 0 0
17	Bagren bund	...	24-1-06	29-7-06	74 "	16,07,971	6,904 0 0	.....	.....	.....	6,904 0 0
18	Kanjhar Baroli bund	...	13-4-06	8-7-06	24 "	2,62,507	1,472 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1,472 0 0
19	Rupbas bund	...	9-10-05	10-2-06	43 "	5,91,191	2,553 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2,553 0 0
20	Bareta bund improvement	...	17-12-05	12-3-06	.....	3,23,800	1,262 0 0	48 0 0	.....	.....	1,310 0 0
21	Improvement of channel No. 3 of Bareta bund	...	13-1-06	31-5-06	86 chains ...	16,14,900	6,686 0 0	222 0 0	.....	.....	6,908 0 0
22	Khan Kheta bund	...	24-3-06	10-7-06	75 "	12,67,900	3,762 0 0	131 0 0	.....	.....	3,896 0 0
23	Nagla Bharam Singh	...	18-4-06	15-7-06	100 "	6,64,620	2,192 0 0	60 0 0	.....	.....	2,252 0 0
24	Papra bund	...	13-1-06	21-7-06	42 "	11,70,800	5,708 0 0	96 0 0	.....	.....	5,804 0 0
25	Clearing foot ball ground at Noble School.	...	18-6-06	30-7-06	75 chains ...	* 5,66,473	477 0 0	.....	.....	.....	477 0 0
26	Lachhmingarh Gobindgarh road	...	14-2-06	15-4-06	97 chains ...	5,09,050	1,477 0 0	92 0 0	.....	.....	1,569 0 0
27	Chaksana bund	...	1-12-05	31-7-06	14 "	4,95,855	7,551 0 0	169 0 0	.....	.....	7,920 0 0
	Total Minor Works	...	.....	.....	.....	1,61,30,289	72,351 0 0	1,398 0 0	.....	.....	73,949 0 0
	Establishment etc.	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,677 0 0	4,391 0 0	11,357 0 0	17,425 0 0
	Total P. W. D. works	...	.....	.....	.....	880,68,171	3,60,576 0 0	10,313 0 0	4,391 0 0	11,357 0 0	3,81,637 0 0
28	9 Civil works (village tanks)	Sept. 1905	Jan. 1906	.....	.....	26,48,525	8,489 4 3	123 10 0	743 3 9	262 3 9	9,628 5 9
	GRAND TOTAL	...	.....	.....	.....	9,07,16,696	3,69,065 4 3	10,446 10 0	5,134 3 9	11,619 3 9	3,96,265 5 9

\*Earth-Work ... 95,283 cft. @ 3%  
Earth-Work dressing ... 4,71,190 cft. @ 6%.



### VIII. Indirect relief. The Suspension and Remission of land Revenue and other dues.

46. In September 1905 when the last hope of saving the *Kharif* Crops was gone the village money-lenders absolutely refused to advance money and the cultivators thus being driven to extremities began to wander. At this time the Darbar announced a general suspension of *Kharif* collections pending receipt of detailed reports from Revenue Authorities.

The statistics of *Kharif* Crops compiled in October, showed that the total outturn in the State amounted to less than 2 annas in the Rupee.

This coupled with the failure of early winter rains, emphasised the necessity for a liberal policy in the matter of *Kharif* collections. So after full consideration of the general principles laid down in the Government of India's Resolution No. 3-99-2 dated 25th March 1905, the Darbar with the approval of the Political Agent finally decided to entirely remit the first *Kharif* instalment of 8 annas and out of the remaining 8 annas of the second instalment to realise upto a maximum of 2 annas only and to suspend the balance, according to the actual state of crops in each village.

This order was proclaimed by means of printed Notices in Hindi and Urdu which were widely circulated in the whole of the affected area and had a most encouraging effect.

The area sown for the winter crops was large and compared very favourably with the unusual small figures of both the monsoon and the winter rainfall.

The net outturn was also comparatively better than what was expected at the outset.

47. The figures below will show the amount of Revenue demand and the collections actually made as compared with the figures of cultivation.

	Kharif or autumn crops. Rabi or winter crops.				TOTAL.	
	Crops.	Revenue Demand.	Crops.	Revenue Demand.	Crops.	Revenue Demand.
	In Acres.	In Rupees.	In Acres.	In Rupees.	In Acres.	In Rupees.
Annual average ...	5,00,839	11,98,191	2,36,795	9,31,739	7,37,634	21,29,930
Actuals of the year under report }	61,943	85,015	1,00,154	5,88,229	1,65,097	6,23,244

Thus out of a total Demand of rupees 21,29,930 only 6,23,244 were realised, and out of the sum left unrealised Rs. 9,25,647 were suspended and Rs. 5,81,039 were entirely remitted.

48. In this connection the remarks recorded by the Famine Commissioner after marching through the State were as follows :—

“ The Darbar under the guidance of Col. Jennings has saved the ”  
 “ situation by granting prompt and generous remissions and suspen- ”  
 “ sions of the *Kharif* Revenue and by making this fact widely known.”  
 “ The granting of suspensions and remissions has had an excellent ”  
 “ effect in improving the credit of land holders and opening the ”  
 “ purses of the Baniyas, who have also been encouraged to lend ”  
 “ money by State officials.”

*Taccavi and other Loans granted.*—49. Altogether Rs. 1,97,296 were granted as *Taccavi* loans to 28,083 Agriculturists.

- (1) For the repair and construction of masonry wells.
- (2) for sinking Kutchha wells .
- (3) for purchase of seed and agricultural implements.
- (4) for purchase of plough bullocks.

Rs. 4,860 were given out as loans to Agriculturists from the two Agricultural Banks in the State.

Rs. 19,663 were advanced as loans to 436 Kothri Band Thakars to finance them through this year of Famine.

The sum advanced to any one of these Thakars did not exceed one-half of the amount of his unincumbered Jagir, and was advanced on condition that it will be repaid within 3 years in 6 equal instalments and will be considered as first charge on his Mafi Lands.

*Fodder advances made on Taccavi System.*— 50. In September 1906 when grass and fodder had become scarce in the State, the State Rundhs were thrown open to the public for free grazing. The little grass that existed in the Rundhs was all eaten up in a few days and then trees were stripped of their leaves and even the twigs and branches were chopped up and served as fodder. Many people left the State with their cattle while others got rid of them by selling them for a nominal price or letting them loose to manage for themselves as best they could.

Advances were freely given to the Zamindars to help them in growing fodder crops and 7,382 kutchha wells were sunk and about 5,000 acres of quick growing fodder crops sown. But then the fodder crops, small as they were, required time to grow and it was necessary to save as many plough bullocks as possible for the next Rabi sowings. To gain this object the Darbar at once arranged to import 50,000 Maunds of Bhusa and 50,000 Maunds of hay and to advance the supply as taccavi loans to the Zamindars for plough bullocks.

Out of the sanctioned quantity nearly 32,000 Maunds of hay was imported from Jhansi and 47,000 Maunds of Bhusa from the United Provinces and the Punjab, all of which was advanced to 9,322 persons, on condition that each recipient would repay double the quantity he had got at the harvest time or its price at market rate of the day. The total cost of all the fodder imported including Railway freight etc. amounted to Rs. 81,193.

## IX, Food stocks, trade and prices.

51. There were no large stores of grain in the State. In a good year about 5 lac Maunds of grain of all sorts chiefly of cheaper classes was exported from this State, while about 40,000 Maunds, mostly wheat and gram, was usually imported by the Banias in an ordinary year. This year the exports were only 46,000 Maunds but imports amounted to nearly 7 lacs of maunds. The chief places from which grain was imported were Sirsa, Rohtak and Bhatinda etc. i. e. the Southern part of the Punjab and Barielly, Chandausi, Hatras and a few other Western Districts of the United Provinces. The bulk of the quantity was imported from November 1905 to March 1906.

52. The statement below shows the prices of food grains prevailing during this year as compared with the two previous famine years.

Month.	1896—1897.						1899—1900.						1905—1906.					
	Wheat.	Barley.	Gram.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Wheat.	Barley.	Gram.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Wheat.	Barley.	Gram.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
April ...	9 2	12 14	12 10	11 12	10 6	7 14	17 0	25 10	19 0	17 5	27 5	24 15	14 0	23 1	22 8	22 12	22 0	15 10
May ...	11 2	14 14	10 2	12 8	10 6	7 14	16 10	24 14	19 0	21 15	24 6	24 0	14 0	22 2	21 10	21 18	22 2	18 11
June ...	13 8	16 0	15 4	15 10	15 0	13 0	16 10	23 6	18 14	11 2	24 6	23 6	13 14	20 10	20 2	20 6	19 4	16 12
July ...	12 12	15 10	15 8	15 9	12 12	12 12	15 14	21 8	17 5	19 6	23 10	21 12	13 1	19 15	18 10	19 4	16 10	15 0
August ...	11 14	14 6	13 14	14 2	12 4	12 4	12 12	16 2	19 2	15 2	13 11	16 8	11 6	15 12	15 10	15 12	14 6	14 6
September ...	11 14	14 10	13 10	14 2	14 6	13 0	9 12	11 12	10 14	11 0	12 12	11 12	10 8	13 6	12 9	12 15	14 5	13 4
October ...	9 4	11 4	10 12	11 0	11 10	10 12	8 12	10 4	10 8	10 6	9 12	9 10	11 0	13 10	13 9	13 9	13 14	12 0
November ...	7 12	9 4	8 14	9 1	9 6	9 0	10 4	12 1	12 4	12 2	10 12	9 12	10 9	12 14	12 8	12 14	13 8	11 5
December ...	7 14	9 4	9 8	9 0	9 8	8 13	10 8	12 8	13 0	12 4	11 12	10 2	10 11	13 2	12 14	13 9	13 0	11 6
January ...	7 14	9 6	9 10	9 8	9 8	9 0	10 4	12 4	11 12	12 0	11 4	10 1	9 6	12 8	11 10	12 1	11 15	10 12
February ...	12 15	17 1	18 0	18 0	17 12	8 2	11 0	13 4	11 12	12 8	11 12	10 4	9 15	12 8	11 9	11 14	11 8	10 9
March ...	12 11	27 15	17 12	17 18	16 8	14 14	11 4	14 10	12 0	13 4	11 4	10 12	10 14	13 8	12 5	12 12	12 0	11 2
Highest ...	7 12	9 4	8 14	9 1	9 6	7 14	8 12	10 4	10 8	10 6	9 12	9 10	9 6	12 8	11 9	11 14	11 8	10 9

In 1896-97 prices began to rise in August and touched their highest in November, while in 1899-1900 the highest limit was reached in October.

This year, though the rainfall was less than in the previous two<sup>a</sup> famine years, the prices did not range so high, nor was the general distress as severe as it was in those years. This was because the present scarcity was limited to a comparatively smaller area and grain was imported in large quantities from outside, while the timely measures taken enabled the masses to find work and food.

*The effect of high prices on crime.*—53. A year of famine usually entails a large increase in crime and to provide for this eventuality steps were taken directly the scarcity became pronounced. A system for the proper patrolling of lonely roads and villages was introduced and 16 Sawars of the State Cavalry were deputed on special patrolling duty. No extra Police were entertained.

The Statement below shows an increase of about 90 percent in petty crimes and 2 Dacoities with one murder as against none, in the previous year.

Year.	Petty Crimes.	Dacoities.	Total.	
			Number of cases.	Value of property stolen.
1904-05	904	...	904	41,896
1905-06	1,698	2	1700	64,405

The effect of high prices on crime would have been undoubtedly severe, had the State not adopted adequate measures in every locality and the increase in crime would have been still more pronounced had not the measures taken and the control exercised over the criminal classes kept the population well in hand.

There was not a single grain riot throughout the Famine period.

#### **X. Public health and mortality of the famine period.**

54. In the early part of the famine except for a slight epidemic of measles and small-pox during the hot weather the public health remained good.

55. In May 1906, plague broke out in the village of Satwari (Pahari Tehsil) but it was soon suppressed. The Agency Surgeon and the Central Famine Officer personally inspected this village. The people willingly agreed to evacuate the whole village which was thoroughly disinfected. Communication with other villages was also cut off entirely and thus evacuation, disinfection and segregation succeeded in effectually stamping out the disease in a few days, there were altogether 97 cases, out of which 82 proved fatal. A regular campaign against rats

			Inches. cents.	
*Average rainfall for 1896—1897	...	17	7	
" " " 1899—1900	...	18	66½	
" " " 1905—1906	...	9	76	

was also carried out in Satwari and in few other villages as a precautionary measure. In Bharatpur the campaign against rats was commenced in July 1905, and some 18000 rats have been got rid of upto this time.

56. Cholera appeared in May 1905 and in the course of the summer visited almost all the principal towns in the State. Upto end of August 1906, altogether 993 cases were reported of which 534 proved fatal.

*Health of people on Relief works.*—57. With the exception of a few cases of small-pox among the children on "Ballast breaking depots" and a few spasmodic cases of cholera on the Railway Relief Works in June, all the Relief works were wonderfully free from diseases in epidemic or other form. The health of people on Relief works generally remained good throughout. A very few cases of emaciated and weak people were found, in most cases they proved to be immigrants who had arrived on the relief works in that condition. There were no large camps as the workers returned to their neighbouring villages. Two deaths suspected to be due to Famine were reported and both persons were foreigners.

58. The following statement gives the monthly fluctuations in deaths and births during the famine period as compared with the last two preceding years.

Months.	1903—04.				1904—05.				1905—06.			
	Deaths.		Births.		Deaths.		Births.		Deaths.		Births.	
	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.	Actuals.	Ratio per mille of the population.
September 1905	667	1.06	812	1.30	642	1.02	802	1.28	346	0.54	431	0.69
October "	614	0.28	704	1.12	950	1.57	763	1.22	288	0.46	567	0.90
November "	518	0.82	605	0.97	794	1.27	638	1.02	454	0.72	408	0.65
December "	525	0.83	509	0.81	772	1.23	575	0.92	484	0.78	519	0.83
January 1906	498	0.79	401	0.98	1,382	2.21	861	1.37	678	1.08	329	0.53
February "	415	0.66	339	0.51	1,733	2.85	486	0.78	668	1.07	256	0.41
March "	461	0.73	299	0.48	4,730	7.51	498	0.79	562	0.90	192	0.31
April "	529	0.84	394	0.63	7,079	11.30	495	0.79	473	0.75	339	0.54
May "	565	0.90	444	0.71	4,391	7.01	444	0.71	661	1.05	380	0.61
June "	539	0.86	441	0.70	603	0.96	346	0.55	736	1.17	500	0.80
July "	320	0.51	536	0.85	355	0.57	446	0.71	635	1.01	575	0.91
August ...	380	0.60	734	1.17	515	0.93	458	0.73	872	1.39	578	0.92
Total	6,031	9.62	6,308	10.06	24,066	38.37	6,812	10.37	6,847	10.92	5,074	8.10

In 1905—06, the total number of deaths from all causes was 6,847 but in the preceding year it was 24,066. The abnormally large number in 1904—05 was due to the ravages made by plague in that year. In 1903—04, which was a normal year, the number was 6,031. This shows an increase of 816 over normal figures which was due to the prevalence of small-pox this year as well as of cholera.

### **XI. Emigration and Immigration.**

59. About 50,000 persons are reported to have emigrated from the State during the present famine. Of these over 45,000 have already returned and about 200 immigrants from foreign territories have settled in this State. The emigration took place at the commencement of the famine principally from the Kumher, Dig and Nagar Tehsils and it is believed that many of these people moved over into the Muttra and Agra Districts where their relations reside.

In October 1905, immigrants from the neighbouring States in the East and South began to move across the Bharatpur State on their way to Muttra, Agra and other British districts. The numbers of such immigrants increased in the winter months and the returning stream set in during the summer and rains of 1906. The total number is estimated at one lac while the number of those who returned through this State is believed to be about three-fourths of that figure. Many of these persons received grain doles in towns and all those who came to the Poor House were served with one meal.

Of these many worked at the different Relief Works in this State for a few days and then passed on to their respective destinations.

The total number of immigrants on Relief works amounted to 1,82,034, units and of these no less than 1,26,641 are reported to be from the Jaipur State. The total cost to this State entailed by these immigrants as reported by the P. W. D. was Rs. 17,400.

### **XII. Water and Fodder supply and the preservation of cattle.**

60. Arrangements for the supply of water at all the Relief Works were satisfactory. In towns and villages where cholera had appeared drinking wells were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. In many places kutchha wells were sunk for drinking purposes. In villages where the water was not sweet people had to fetch it from neighbouring villages.

61. Scarcity of fodder began to be keenly felt in September. In October people began to use leaves of trees, prickly pear, stems of Gandar (Kandi) and bushes of all kinds as fodder for their cattle. The Darbar then decided to import fodder from outside for the zamindars. The large quantity of fodder imported afforded substantial relief for thousands of plough bullocks. The importation of fodder served as a practical lesson to the people. The State's example was followed by

many enterprising Sabukars and others who imported fodder on their own account and in a short period the station yards at all the Railway stations in the State had a number of stalls where Bhusa was sold freely to all those who could afford to buy it for cash or on credit. Thus many were supplied with fodder at a time when they were losing all hopes of procuring it either for love or for money. By this arrangement the general panic which had just begun throughout the country was assured and a very large number of cattle were actually saved from starvation during the worst period of the year.

62. In this connection the following extract from the Famine Commissioner's Note will explain the situation more fully.

"From the figures given it will be seen that the most affected " "Tehsils are Kumher, Dig, Weir, Nagar and Bharatpur, while all have " "been very seriously affected. I myself entered the Bharatpur State " "from Alwar and passed through the Nagar, Dig and Kumher Tehsils " "before arriving at Bharatpur and made enquiries at a number of " "villages in those Tehsils. The agricultural conditions so far as I could " "ascertain them are noticeably worse than in Alwar, the Pala and " "dwarf Ber Bush which have been so plentiful this year in Alwar, and " "has given fodder for the cattle, has been, for sometime, exhausted in " "Bharatpur and the gathering and drying of its leaves, no longer gives " "employment to the labouring classes. The wells are in many cases " "saline and have been rendered more so by the draught, so that the " "crops irrigated from many of the wells have been poor. The cattle " "are much more emaciated than in Alwar. The trees have every where " "been hacked about and stripped of their leaves to feed the cattle, even " "the road-side trees having in many places been completely spoiled. " "Even the irrigated Kharif crops have not been so good as the figures " "show, since practically all the cotton which is included in the suc- " "cessful area has been a failure. Large numbers of the poorer cul- " "tivators and of the labourers (specially Chamars) have emigrated. " "In the Nagar and Dig Tehsils I came across some villages with only " "two or three families left, and in none did I find less than ten " "per cent gone."

"About 50,000 cattle have left the State and gone towards the " "North-East, the largest number (14,000) being from Kumher. Very " "few have left Kaman and Pahari which are fairly well off for fod- " "der. In the other Tehsils there is already a fodder famine, which " "is the most serious feature of the situation. Owing to the salt water " "in many of the wells carrots are not plentiful, and for the same rea- " "son the Lucerne seed of which a large quantity was distributed by " "the Darbar, has mostly failed. The Darbar has made a gallant " "attempt to meet the fodder difficulty by importing 50,000 Maunds " "of pressed hay and 50,000 Maunds of Bhusa. \* \* \* \* " "It is issued in limited quantities to the owners of plough bullocks on " "orders signed by the Patwaris (who had each a book of foils and " "counter-foils for the purpose) and countersigned by the Tehsildars."



"The counter-foils are kept by the Patwaris and the foils by issuing"  
 "officers. Each person receiving fodder undertakes to repay to the"  
 "State double the amount of fodder received by him, at some future"  
 "time. The cultivators fetch the fodder themselves in their carts,"  
 "many going as far as Muttra for the purpose. Bhusa is said to be"  
 "preferred to hay as it can be used easily mixed with *Pala* and other"  
 "leaves, and this is a point worth remembering for future famines."  
 "The quantities imported by the Darbar will if properly husbanded,"  
 "maintain a good number of the plough cattle but it is to be feared"  
 "that there will in any case be enormous mortality among them."

*State Grass Depôt.*—63. The stock of grass accumulated in previous years and kept in reserve by the Bagar Department amounted to about 40,000 maunds at the begining of the famine. This amount by taking care and allowing no waste was found sufficient to feed the state animals throughout the famine and thus by a careful husbanding of the old stock a large amount of extra expenditure was avoided which should have other-wise been unavoidable.

The experiences of this year have brought home to the Bagar Department the necessity of materially improving their grass farms and stocks. Six mowing machines have already been imported and every effort is now being made to improve this important branch of the service to the full extent possible.

*Cattle Mortality.*—64. A census of live-stock is ordinarily taken with the Kharif Girdawari *i. e.* in September every year.

This year an enumeration was held at the end of March 1906 also and the figures below show clearly the losses in live stocks during this famine.

Particulars of Cattle.	Census of 1904.	Census of 1906.	Difference.	Per- centage of Decrease.
Oxen ... ..	1,06,897	87,747	-19,150	17.91
Cows ... ..	2,12,276	1,10,864	-1,01,412	47.77
She-buffaloes ... ..	1,21,225	62,653	-58,572	48.31
He-buffaloes ... ..	2,0240	12,703	-7,537	37.23
Donkeys ... ..	15,460	12,203	-3,257	21.71
Horses & mares ... ..	6,486	4,645	-1,841	28.38
Sheep and goats ... ..	1,93,936	1,53,421	-40,515	20.80
Camels ... ..	1,964	1,473	-491	25.06
Bulls ... ..	856	653	-203	23.70
Total ... ..	6,79,340	4,46,362	2,32,978	34.20

The total number of hides exported this year was 74,000 while the average for the past years amounted to 35,000.

Notwithstanding all the efforts that were made to save them the losses in cattle were heavy and it was necessary to take some measures to replace at least the plough-bullocks.

65. Directly the situation began to improve by the good Monsoon in 1906, it was arranged to have weekly Hats (marts) in one or two places in each Tehsil and a Cattle Fair was also held in Dig in the third week of August 1906.

Import and Export (Customs) Duty on cattle was remitted and various remissions and advantages were notified to encourage the import of good cattle.

Thus at the 134 Hats held upto the end of September 1906, altogether 3,519 cattle of sorts were exhibited, out of which 488 were bought by the Zemindars for Rs. 12,315 while the number brought to the Dig Cattle Fair was 2,941 and out of these 1,731 cattle were bought for Rs. 46,392.

Orders were also issued requiring Tehsildars to advance Taccavi loans for purchase of bullocks at these marts to bona-fide Zamindars who actually needed such loans and who furnished sufficient security for repayment. Altogether Rs. 11,703 were advanced to Zamindars at all these marts and 439 bullocks were purchased in this manner.

This system of holding weekly Hats is likely to enable the Zamindars to recruit the requisite number of cattle in a very short time.

### **XIII. Influence of Railways and irrigation works in the mitigation of distress.**

*Railways.*—66. The Rajputana-Malwa Railway runs through the middle of the State from East to West and has four Railway Stations within the State. The line has been most useful in importing grain freely from places where it was cheapest. This helped in keeping the prices low to an appreciable degree. There are altogether 19 *pucca* roads and 37 good fair-weather roads running in the length and breadth of the State for wheeled traffic. These facilitated the transport of grain from place to place within the State and thus enabled the people in all parts of the State to buy their corn nearly at the same rates as at Bharatpur and other Railway Stations.

*Irrigation Works.*—67. There is only one large storage irrigation work in the State namely the Bareta *Bund* in the South and it has well repaid its cost. It permanently protects some 16 villages and has cost the State about 2½ Lacs. It irrigated about 4000 acres in the famine of 1899-1900. This year it has irrigated 3819 acres. This decrease is due to the fact that the rainfall was less than in 1899-1900, and the water in the *Bund* fell earlier below sluice level.

With the exception of this Bareta (*Storage Bund*) the remaining tanks did not fill. Most of them have been flooded by the recent rains and are expected to fully make up for the last year's deficiency.

#### **XIV. General remarks on the working of the Famine Code.**

68. All the Relief works in this State were carried out under what is known as the "Modified Contract System."

Under the existing circumstances this system was considered as the most suitable one for the State.

69. In order to show the necessity of adopting this system in preference to the one prescribed in the Famine Code, as also to explain its working in a thorough manner, the following abstract is quoted in *extenso* from the State Engineer's report.

"I do not propose here to enter into a defence of the Modified " "Contract System but I consider with the small superior establishment " "at present in the state, it would have been quite impossible to work " "the complicated famine system satisfactorily."

"To do this it would have been necessary to have a fully qua-" "lified officer in charge of each relief circle in the State (the Sub-divi-" "sional Officers could not possibly have undertaken this work in ad-" "dition to their ordinary duties) and he would require under him a " "large famine establishment. Without this safeguard I am of opinion " "that the peculation and loot would amount to an enormous percen-" "tage of the total cost of the famine."

"Under the present system the contractor obtains a legitimate " "profit, in his own interest, he is obliged to see that the tasks are " "properly performed. No object can be served by sending in daily " "returns fictitiously increased, which is a very common form of fraud " "when working under the ordinary Famine Code. The tools and " "plant are the property of the contractor and the State therefore does " "not have to bear the loss due to their being lost, damaged or fraudu-" "lently sold which often occurs under the other system."

"It is possible to keep a far better control over selected con-" "tractors whose future livelihood in this State depends on their obey-" "ing orders and carrying out their works satisfactorily than over a " "number of men temporarily engaged, many of whom look on the " "famine solely as a means of making money by loot and fraud, and " "few of whom can look forward to future prospects in this State."

"As a matter of actual experience from previous famine I know " "that men will apply for famine work carried out on Code principles " "on half the pay of the appointment, they are then holding. And I " "regret to say that I do not believe this is done from motives of " "philanthropy."

" Apart from the primary question of relief this system ensures " that the work carried out will become useful work to the State, and " will serve the irrigation purpose or whatever it may for which it " is intended."

" Experience in previous famines goes to prove that many works " carried out under the Famine Code, have failed altogether in this " respect."

" However suitable the Famine Code may be in a British Dis- " trict where plenty of superior supervision is available, I do not think " it is suited to Native States unless the existing staff of superior " officers is very largely increased."

As already described the rates paid under the " Modified Contract system " were controlled by the State Engineer and varied according to the nature of the soil, distance of lead and lift.

70. The tables below will show the minimum living wage allowed as also the amount paid to the various classes of dependents.

*Statement showing minimum rate of wages to be paid to people employed on Relief Works for various prices of grain.*

Seers to a rupee cheapest grain.	Man.	Value in annas and pies.	Woman.	Value in annas and pies.	Child.	Value in annas and pies.	
16	20 Chs.	0 1 3	18 Chs.	0 1 1	14 Chs.	0 0 10	This statement is calculated for able-bodied labourer. The rate of wages for children is only approximate as it depends on the age of the children. The grain for purposes of this statement was the cheapest form of grain obtainable, should the labourer earn more he should be paid accordingly.
15	"	0 1 4	"	0 1 2	"	0 0 11	
14	"	0 1 5	"	0 1 3	"	0 1 0	
13	"	0 1 6	"	0 1 4	"	0 1 1	
12	"	0 1 8	"	0 1 6	"	0 1 2	
11	"	0 1 10	"	0 1 8	"	0 1 3	
10	"	0 2 0	"	0 1 10	"	0 1 5	
9	"	0 2 3	"	0 2 0	"	0 1 7	
8	"	0 2 6	"	0 2 3	"	0 1 9	

*Classification of wages of dependents by Public Works Department.*

Class.	Particulars.	Rs.	as.	ps.	Remarks.
A.	An old man unfit for work ...	0	1	3	
B.	An old woman unfit for work ...	0	1	3	
C.	A child old enough but too weak ...	0	1	0	
D & E.	A child not old enough for work ...	0	0	6to9	
F.	A baby in arms ...	0	0	3	
G.	Any woman giving birth to a child on relief work to receive for a fortnight ...	0	1	6	

*The measure of success attained & the attitude of the people.*—71. The system of work adopted in the State worked with complete success and was liked by the masses.

*The future outlook.*—72. This year the monsoon currents arrived in time and the Kharif sowings were fairly good. The prolonged absence of rain from the middle of July to the end of August caused some harm to the Kharif crops and a good deal of anxiety, but the abundant showers in early September amply compensated for this and the outlook at present is very hopeful and bright.

We expect an outturn of about 14 annas for the Kharif. The Rabi cultivation is likely to exceed that of a normal year.

*General Remarks.*—73. In the foregoing Chapters efforts have been made to pass in review as briefly as possible the successive stages of the recent famine; the measures taken by the Darbar from time to time to mitigate the sufferings caused thereby and the degree of success which attended these measures. This report would, however, be incomplete without mentioning the fact that the attainment of the success achieved would have been an impossibility but for the deep personal interest taken in the welfare of the people by the Hon'ble Mr. E. G. Colvin I. C. S. C. S. I. the Agent to the Governor-General Rajputana, and other high officers including my Honorable Colleagues in the Council.

74. Early in September 1905, i. e. directly the first signs of distress became apparent our Honoured Chief paid a visit to Bharatpur and spent a number of days in personally discussing the situation and offering solutions for all the intricate problems that stared us in the face at the very outset. He personally inspected the first test work that was being opened in Charligunj, about 7 miles from Bharatpur and the lessons obtained on the spot served as the guiding principles throughout this period of trouble.

75. The spirit of energy and earnestness infused by this visit was kept up by Mr. H. C. Clogstoun C. I. E. the then Political Agent, who remained at the helm of this administration for the first two months and under whose guidance were made all the preliminary arrangements which were necessary for the house against this storm of distress and

	240	1,915
	...	823
Total	2,17,480	39,

5. As soon as it became puditure to the lowest possible limit, the Rabi harvest of 1902, namely, about 1/4 for grazing, the liberal grants of Taccavi following forecast was made, of the information of Local Charitable Committees by the crop failure :—

States, &c.	Total area, sq. miles.	Population.	Affected areas to start sq. miles.	Relief works, the
Bikaner	23,311	5,84,627	23,311	vay, the assur-
Marwar	31,963	19,35,665	16,904	of the <i>Kharif</i>
Jaisalmer	16,062	73,370	16,062	Clogstoun's
Sirohi	1,904	1,54,514	825	
Mewar	11,203	9,02,721	750	
Khorwara	900	10,847	900	
Kotra	650	17,641	650	
Dungarpur	1,447	1,00,103	1,447	
Partabgarh	886	52,025	886	
Banswara	1,606	1,49,128	1,606	
Kushalgarh	340	16,222	340	
Tonk	1,111	1,13,530	957	
Bandi	2,220	1,71,227	935	
Shalipura	405	42,676	405	
Jaipur	15,579	26,58,666	6,753	
Kishangarh	858	90,970	858	
Lawa	19	2,671	19	
Bharatpur	1,982	6,26,665	137	
Total	1,15,509	78,32,001	73,745	

Note.—\* The total 44,000 here given differs from that embodied in the latest returns submitted to the Government, but it is believed to be approximately correct.

of villages in...  
days in giving the labour the full benefit of his vast and varied experience.

78. In the middle of February 1906, when the situation was still critical, the Darbar was unfortunately deprived of Colonel Jennings guiding hand, but the misgivings caused thereby were soon dispelled by the arrival of Colonel J. R. C. Colvin who at once associated himself with the policy so successfully initiated by the previous Officers. Within two months however the Darbar was again suddenly deprived of the services and support of this officer, owing to his departure due to ill-health.

79. Major L. Impey relieved Colonel Colvin and shortly after this the situation commenced to improve. The Rabi harvest comparatively small

as it was, afforded some relief for the population and the cattle and then the timely breaking up of the Monsoon gradually dispelled the gloom and notified the necessity of winding up all the various works that were in progress at the time.

For all this the Darbar needed the guidance and advice of an officer of vast and matured experience and the want was supplied by Major L. Impey who has since been in Political charge of the Bharatpur State, and under whose guidance and watchful eye the proceedings have been brought to a close in a satisfactory manner.

From the above lines it would appear that it was with the help of the combined wisdom of, and the personal interest taken by, so many high officers that the Darbar was enabled to take all the various measures so promptly and exactly at the time that they were needed, to mitigate the serious distress and avoid the loss of life that should otherwise have undoubtedly occurred. I therefore take this opportunity to offer on behalf of the Darbar and of the Bharatpur population their heart-felt thanks to all these officers.

80. Before concluding this report I, as Central Famine Officer of the State, beg to offer my personal thanks to all the officers of the State and the local gentry whose names appear in Appendix A. for their hearty co-operation and the strenuous work done by them in their respective spheres during this trying and difficult period.

GIRDHARI LAL

Bharatpur,  
3rd November 1906.

}

Revenue Member,  
Central Famine Officer Bharatpur.

## APPENDIX A.

Names of Officers and others mentioned in  
Para. 80 of the Report.

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1. Major V. G. Drake-Brockman, I. M. S.  
Agency Surgeon, Eastern States Rajputana.
2. Mr. C. R. Judd, State Engineer Bharatpur.
3. Syad Sajjad Husain, Sessions Judge, Bharatpur.
4. Munshi Mahmud Husain, Deputy Collector,  
Bharatpur District.
5. Munshi Amar Singh, Deputy Collector,  
Dig District.
6. Pandit Ganpat Lal, Misra, Nazim Bharatpur.
7. Babu Maya Shankar, B. A., Superintendent  
Customs, Bharatpur.
8. \*Lala Ram Sahai, City Magistrate.
9. †Babu Sheo Lal, B. A., Treasury Officer, Bharatpur.
10. Captain Hurdwari Singh, Incharge Bagar Department, Bharatpur.
11. Mr. Hari Ram Pathak, incharge Medical Victoria Hospital.
12. Babu Buldeo Parshad, B. A., Tahsildar Dig.
13. Syad Abul Kasim, Tahsildar Nagar.
14. Syad Barkat Ali, Tahsildar Biana.
15. Babu Ram Sarup, B. A., Tahsildar Bharatpur.
16. Lala Raghu Nath Sahai, Naib Tahsildar.
17. Lala Ram Lal, Naib Tahsildar Bharatpur.
18. Munshi Babu Parshad, Naib Tahsildar Nadbai.
19. Pandit Niranjan Lal, Naib Tahsildar Dig.

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\* Worked as Secretary to the Parda women's Relief Committee.

† Worked as Secretary to the Poor House Committee.



- 20. Munshi Rahim Baksh, Police Inspector Bharatpur.
- 21. Lala Chote Lal, Contractor and Municipal Commissioner.
- 22. Potdar Gaddar Mal, Mahjan and Contractor.
- 23. Sayad Faiz Mohammad Khan, Municipal Commissioner,  
Bharatpur City.
- 24. Hakim, Ali Raza Khan.
- 25. Waid, Gopi Lal.
- 26. Babu Narain Das, Superintendent State Engineer's Office.
- 27. Babu Kamla Kant, Head clerk P. W. D. Office.
- 28. Babu Sundar Lal, Accountant „
- 29. Babu Chunni Lal, Sub-Divisional Officer „
- 30. Babu Sham Lal, Sub-Divisional Officer „
- 31. Babu Abdul Rahim, Sub-Divisional Officer „
- 32. Babu Salig Ram, Officiating Head Clerk Revenue Member's Office.
- 33. Munshi Abid Ali, Central Famine Office.

## APPENDIX B.

Extract from a note dated the 11th December 1905 recorded by  
H. Dobbs, Esquire I. C. S., C. I. E. Famine Commissioner, Rajputana.

—:o:—

\* \* \* \* \*

"Owing to the experience of Famine possessed by Colonel Jennings"  
"and Mr. Judd, and the energy displayed by these officers and by"  
"Mr. Girdhari Lal, Central Famine Officer, the points on which I have any"  
"suggestions to make are few, the organisation of relief being on the whole"  
"admirable and sufficient." \* \* \*

—:o:—

Copy of note recorded by the Political Agent Eastern States Raj-  
putana on 24th November 1905 regarding arrangements made for the  
relief of Pardah women.

"I approve of these lines and consider Mr. Girdhari Lal has taken"  
"great trouble in this connection. The other Members concur."

—:o:—

Extract from letter No. 497 G. dated 20th December 1905 from  
Colonel R. H. Jennings C. S. I., R. E. Resident and Political Agent,  
Eastern States Rajputana, to C. C. Watson, Esquire I. C. S. First Assis-  
tant to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.

(Officially Communicated to Revenue Member.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"In this connection I have only to say that I found a good working"  
"Council, prepared to follow my advice implicitly, a most excellent State"  
"Engineer in Mr. Judd, and an equally capable and strenuously hard"  
"working Revenue Member in Mr. Girdhari Lal, the Central Famine Officer."  
"It was a labour of love to work with this staff, and fortunately before I"  
"was placed *hors de Combat* with Malaria (which had kept me in bed pretty"  
"nearly half the day during the last three weeks) I was able with the above"  
"able staff as well as with the two efficient Deputy Collectors Munshi Amar"  
"Singh and Sayed Mahmud Husain, to get every thing in thorough working"  
"order. I claim no credit for myself but I ask that full credit may be"  
"accorded to the above named officers.

—:o:—

Extract from Circular letter No. 457-C. dated the 29th December  
1905, from Colonel R. H. Jennings C. S. I., R. E., Resident and Political  
Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Revenue Member of State Council  
Bharatpur.

"In reply to my letter No. 497 G. of 20th December 1905 the First"

" Assistant to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General writes as "  
 " follows :— "

\* \* \* \* \*

" 2. The Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General was very pleased "  
 " to receive from the Famine Commissioner so satisfactory an account of the "  
 " measures taken to meet the Famine in Bharatpur which seemed to be "  
 " inspired by sound common sense and practicality, the initiation of these "  
 " measures was due to the State Council especially the Central Famine "  
 " Officer Pandit Girdhari Lal, working under the able advice of "  
 " Mr. Clogstoun, and since your arrival and since that of Mr. Judd, they "  
 " have received further most efficient guidance and assistance from yourself "  
 " and that officer. "

